

Fall 2011

Marginalia no. 30

Merrill-Cazier Library
Utah State University

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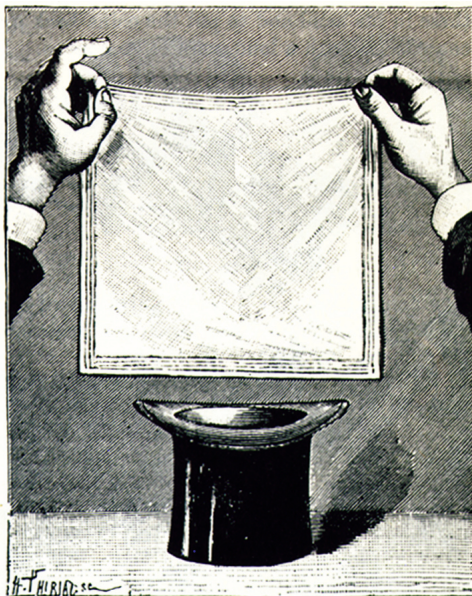




Feel the Magic: A Place for Physical Objects in the Modern Library

Recently I inherited from my parents a wonderful oil painting of an abstract mountain scene. The artwork had hung on the wall of their Pocatello home until a few weeks ago when I moved the painting to my home in Paradise. Since then, I have had the opportunity to notice subtle changes in the painting, depending on the angle of view or the time of day. This most interesting characteristic made me think about how such a work would be portrayed digitally. Although the general view could be captured and displayed, the painting would lose a major part of its impact, the artist obviously intending the work to interact with light and shadow and distance.

The ever changing perspective of this art work led me to consider the difference between other physical and digital objects, the books, letters and photographs we curate in Special Collections. Is there a similar disconnect between real physical objects in the archival and book world and their digital surrogates? Is the experience of viewing a digital image different from handling the physical object? In one sense both provide the information that researchers need; but in another sense, digital representations are not intended to display the same nuance as the original, which carries more intrinsic and emotional value. This is especially true as we in Special Collections endeavor to teach students about the value of primary source material.

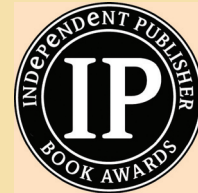


We use the value of the physical object almost every day in Special Collections and Archives, particularly when introducing students to the archives for the first time. The best example of the effectiveness of physical objects in teaching the value of primary source material may be our 4000 year old cuneiform tablet. As students don gloves, hold, touch and rotate this clay tablet in their hands, the experience has the ability to transport them to another time and place. Their excitement is clear and unmistakable. "Awesome!" is the singular most common expression we hear.

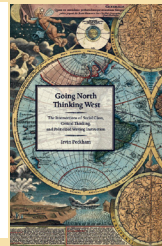
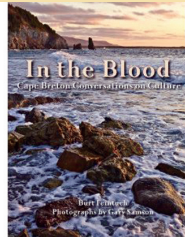
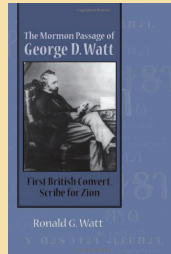
We often juxtapose the cuneiform tablet, which is a receipt for animal hides, with another historic document of similar purpose: an 1849 receipt for a human slave. One cannot help but have an emotional response when holding this document and thinking about the individuals who made this transaction. The hair literally stands up on the back of my neck whenever I un-box this piece of Americana and discuss its historical significance. Having these two documents side by side and explaining to students that in essence they served the same purpose – a receipt of sale – makes a dramatic statement intellectually, but seeing and touching the actual items make this comparison even more powerful.



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We're pleased to announce that USU Press has received national awards this year for three of its recent books. *The Mormon Passage of George D. Watt: First British Convert, Scribe for Zion*, a book by Ronald G. Watt, received the Evans Handcart Award for biographical research on the Interior West, awarded by the Mountain West Center. The book *In the Blood: Cape Breton Conversations on Culture*, by folklorist Burt Feintuch, is the Silver Medal Winner for Best Regional Nonfiction from the Independent Publishers Association. *Going North Thinking West: The Intersections of Social Class, Critical Thinking, and Politicized Writing Instruction*, by Irvin Peckham, won the Outstanding Book Award from Reflections, a national journal of civic scholarship and writing.



Feel the Magic: A place for Physical Objects in the Modern Library Continued from page 1

Recently our Manuscript Curator, Clint Pumphrey, discovered a letter written to Samoan missionary C.H. Bridges by his wife, Mary Ellen, from Dingle, Idaho during winter 1892. The letter contains a lock of their child's hair sewn onto the page. The hair felt like it could have been plucked yesterday. It must have been a particularly poignant moment for Mr. Bridges. Another letter exchanged between the two contained pieces of cloth from a dress worn at a recent wedding attended by Mrs. Bridges. Again, holding these letters evinces responses of emotion and imagination that is difficult if not impossible to convey with a digital image.

Similar emotional responses occur when holding our first edition Book of Mormon, our fifteenth century illuminated Book of Hours, tintype photographs, or one of many scrapbooks and photo albums we have in Special Collections that demonstrate the care taken by their creator.

Libraries have made a concerted effort to provide digital resources. Our efforts have allowed access to an amazing amount of information about historical topics that would not have been imaginable even 20 years ago. However, in the case of much of the physical material we house in Special Collections and Archives, Government Documents and elsewhere in the Library, there is still an intrinsic value to the real object that sometimes can be magical. Magic is fleeting and like that which fills the canvas of my parent's painting, may not transfer well to the digital world. Our task in all of this is to ensure that there will always be a place for the original object in the modern library so that future library patrons will have a chance to feel the "magic."

Brad Cole

Associate Dean, Special Collections & Archives



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Thank you for your support!



We Welcome 3 New Librarians

Andrew Wesolek



The Merrill-Cazier Library announces the hiring of Scholarly Communications and Institutional Repository Librarian Andrew Wesolek. Andy began his studies at Washington College on the beautiful shores of the Chesapeake Bay, majoring in philosophy and environmental studies. After completing undergraduate work he taught English in South Korea, eventually moving back to his native New Jersey to teach middle school science, as well as coach high school and summer club swim teams. Finally, he saw the light and obtained a MLS from Rutgers University. With his MLS in hand he heard the call of the West and began master's studies in philosophy at the University of Idaho. Subsequently, he joined the wonderful faculty of Utah State University

Andy is primarily the "IR Guy" in the library, responsible for managing, developing and promoting DigitalCommons@USU, the university's Institutional Repository. The Digital Commons houses the intellectual capital of USU from papers published by faculty and graduate theses to faculty presentations and posters. When Andy is not hiking, climbing or swimming he enjoys working to make digital commons documents as open and visible as possible in an effort to highlight the scholarship conducted at USU.

Clint Pumphrey



Clint Pumphrey, the new Manuscript Curator for Special Collections and Archives, grew up in Ruston, Louisiana before skipping over the border to Arkansas to attend Ouachita Baptist University. He graduated with a dual degree in History and Political Science.

Clint then made the trek west to attend graduate school in the History Department at Utah State University. While in Logan he found that he enjoyed outdoor activities like backpacking, rock climbing, and skiing. This interest in the outdoors helped him complete an independent study class called "Leisure in the West" and led to his master's thesis about tourist development in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Most recently Clint worked as the National Register Historian for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program in Little Rock, Arkansas, but the lure of the west had Clint hooked and we are pleased he is back!

Hannah Kim

Hannah Kim is a graduate (B.S. and M.S.) from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is also a member of the American Library Association and has a strong interest in the application of technologies within libraries. Hannah plays an active role in web development at the Merrill-Cazier Library and is also a liaison between the "traditional" and "technical" library worlds. Her goal is to understand how technology is applied to the library, and how she can best serve the students using these technologies. In her free time, Hannah enjoys gardening, reading, knitting, and the great outdoors. She is a self proclaimed coffee addict and her perfect day includes fresh pressed coffee, her Kindle, and lots of sunshine.





Graphic Novels: A Library Exhibit

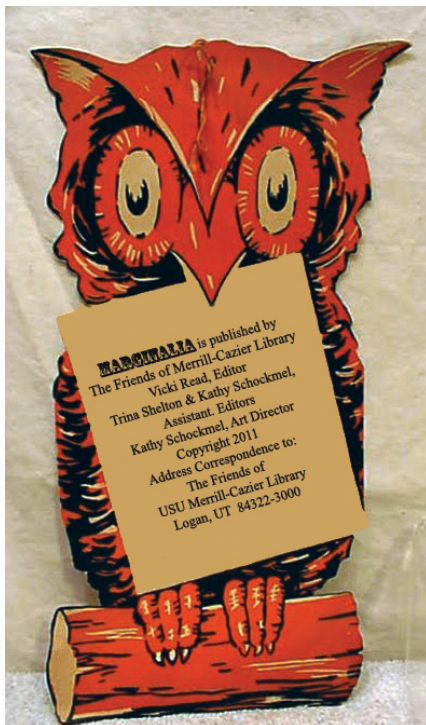
According to the *New York Times Magazine* graphic novels are the new literary form ... a literary, visual, political and cultural artifact. Graphic novels such as Art Spiegelman's *In the Shadow of No Towers* uses the format of a graphic novel to not only tell the story of 9/11 but also explore social and political issues related to the war on terrorism and how oil is used to further political agendas.

The evolution of the comic strip into a graphic novel has allowed for difficult concepts, ideologies and events in history to be condensed down into visual images with text in sequential frames. Historical graphic novels such as *Maus*, *It Was the War of the Trenches*, *Safe Area Gorazde*, and *A.D. New Orleans*, all included in this exhibit, pull together events in history in a creative blend of visual and written forms. *Skim* and *Blankets*, also included in this exhibit, take difficult issues of gender, race and coming of age and engage the reader in telling their story. By using the format of a graphic novel with visual cues and minor dialogue readers are emotionally attached to the plot.

This exhibit will be on display in the Merrill-Cazier atrium from October 24, 2011, until December 10, 2011. A formal opening will take place on November 10, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. in room 101 of the Merrill-Cazier Library. Shawn Clybor, Christie Fox and Steven Shively will discuss the use of graphic novels in their current classroom curriculum.

The Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art is also highlighting graphic novel artists. Their exhibit: **Bang! Thwack! Plop! Comics: An Influence on Contemporary Art** is on display until August 31, 2012.

Vicki Read
Head of Patron Services



Innovations & Scholarship:



Contributions to Librarianship

Book Chapter:

Davis, E. & Blackburn, H. (January 2011). "We're All in This Together: Solutions for Creative Staffing." Smallwood, C. (ed.), *The Frugal Librarian: Thriving in Tough Economic Times*. Chicago: American Library Association.

Poster Session:

Davis, E., McGregor, T., & Zamostny, J. (June 26, 2011) "Outcomes and Assessment in Post-Immersion Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Utah: Applying Immersion Principles to Public Libraries, Teacher Effectiveness, and the Student-Centered Classroom." American Library Association Conference, Poster Session, New Orleans, LA.

Presentations:

Adams, C., Brassaw, L., Dresselhaus, A., and Rozum, B. (May 16, 2011). "Blended libraries: becoming one family." Acquisitions Institute at Timberline Lodge, Mt. Hood, OR.

Clement, S., Duncan, J., & Rozum, B. (May 2011) "Campus Copyright Education: Creating a culture of compliance and empowerment," Utah Library Association, Layton, UT.

Davis, E., Lundstrom, K., & Jackson, S. (May 13, 2011) "For-Credit vs. Course Integrated: What is the best method to Reach Students?" Utah Library Association Conference, Layton, UT.

Duncan, J. & Kochan, C. (May 2011) "Utah State University ILS Purchase on Demand." Greater Western Library Alliance Biennial Meeting, Park City, UT.

Holliday, W. (May 2011) "Harmonic Convergence: Using the Tuning Process to Build Relationships and Transform Information Literacy." Association for College and Research Libraries National Conference. Philadelphia, PA.

Spooner, M. (May 2011). "Digital Publishing at Utah State University Press." Annual Conference of the Computers and Writing Association. Ann Arbor, MI.

Presentations:

Walters, C. D. (May 26-29, 2011) "Mormon History Materials: Utah State University Special Collections and Archives." Mormon History Association Conference in St. George, UT. Available at: http://works.bepress.com/cheryl_walters/2

Publications:

Davis, E., & Lundstrom, K. (July 2011). "Creating Effective Staff Development Committees: A Case Study." *New Library World*, 112(7/8).

Diekema, A. R., Leary, H., Haderlie, S., Walters, C. D. (March 2011). "Teaching Use of Digital Primary Sources for K-12 Settings," *D-Lib*, v. 17 no.3/4. doi:10.1045/march2011-diekema. Available at: <http://www.dlib.org/dli/march11/diekema/03diekema.html>

Walters, C. D. (July 20, 2011) Utah Academic Library Consortium. Digitization Committee. Metadata Working Group (Member). Mountain West Digital Library Dublin Core Application Profile, version 2.0. Available at: http://mwdl.org/public/mwdl/MWDL_DC_Profile_Version_2.0.pdf

Frances Winton Champ: A Cornerstone of Cache Valley Musical Culture

An exhibition drawn from Frances Winton Champ's music library – a gift from the Champ family to the library's Special Collections and Archives – was on display at USU's Merrill-Cazier Library through the month of September. The exhibition, organized by Special Collections & Archives, focused on one of Cache Valley's musical leaders who played an important role in the cultural development of Logan.

During the 1920s to 1940s, Frances Winton Champ was a unique talent in northern Utah. Few people had her comprehensive musical training in concert performance. A perfectionist, she often devoted eight to ten hours a day to practice.

The wife of Frederick Percival Champ, a former president of the Board of Trustees for USU and a leader in Cache Valley banking, Frances Champ was an accomplished performer, gifted composer and effective teacher. Her personal music library is unique and the exhibition features examples of Mrs. Champ's publications, practice notes, and a sampling of a collaborative work featuring Mrs. Champ's musical pieces paired with former USU professor and artist Everett Thorpe's original illustrations. The exhibition is enhanced with audio elements including computer access to the International Music Score Library Project (IMSLP.org).

Jeff Lyon, a senior music education major, led efforts to assemble the exhibition with an internship funded by the Champ family. Employed with Special Collections, he brought a personal and professional interest to the project. As exhibition curator, Lyon conducted the research for the exhibition and managed its installation.

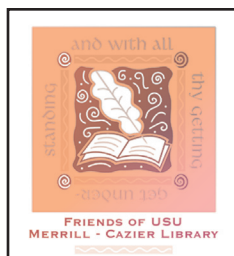
A September 12 reception for the exhibition featured music students' performances of Frances Winton Champ's music. USU's Dept. of Music provided support and funding for the concert installing a Steinway concert grand piano in the Library's foyer for the event which included remarks by Caine College of the Arts Dean Craig Jessop.



Frances Winton Champ,
Portrait by Harrison Groutage

Below: Jeff Lyon welcomes guests to the Exhibit Concert and Reception, organized with the USU Department of Music





Friends of the
Merrill-Cazier Library
3000 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT. 84322-3000

Mormons and the Civil War



Fred E. Woods will discuss "A Look at the Mormon Experience to and through and in and out of Utah during the Civil War" in this year's fall Friends of the Library lecture. The event will be held October 27, 2011, in room 101 of the Merrill-Cazier Library beginning at 7:00 p.m.

This lecture will present highlights of the dynamic story of the journey of European converts by sail, trail and rail as they traveled east to west through north and south to Utah during the Civil War. In addition, it will look at how the war was viewed by Mormons both publicly and privately from both ends of the spectrum and how it influenced the lives of Latter-day Saints in and out of Utah during this period (1861-1865).

Professor Woods received his Ph.D. in Middle East Studies from the University of Utah with an emphasis in Hebrew Bible. He has a long and distinguished career in academia. Currently he is the Richard L. Evans Chair at Brigham Young University in the department of Church History & Doctrine. He is the author of several books and dozens of articles dealing with the topic of Mormon migration in the 19th century.

Friends Lecture October 27